

SOUTHERN STANDARD.

VOLUME I.

COLUMBUS, LOWNEDES COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1852.

NUMBER 51.

The Southern Standard

IS ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY MORNING BY
CHAPMAN & SMITH,
At three dollars per annum, in advance.

ADVERTISEMENTS.—First insertion (ten lines or less) \$1.00; for each subsequent insertion, 50 cents. The number of insertions must be specified on the face of the copy furnished, or it will be published until for sale and charged as above.

All articles of a personal character will be charged double the above rates. *Advertisements when admitted.* Political circulars or public addresses for the benefit of individuals will be charged as advertisements.

On yearly advertisements, a liberal discount will be made. The privilege of yearly advertisers will be limited to their own immediate business; advertisements sent in by them embracing other matter, will be charged for by the square.

COLUMBUS:
Wednesday Morning, January 14, 1852.

Governor's Message.

Fellow-Citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:

I have been unexpectedly, and under peculiar circumstances, called to discharge the duties of Chief Executive Magistrate of your State.

The constitution makes it obligatory on me as such officer, to recommend to the consideration of the Legislature, such measures as I may deem necessary and expedient. And, in the performance of that duty, I desire to call your attention, in the first place, to the propriety of passing an act, referring to the people a change in the organic law, so as to prevent, in future, an interregnum in the executive department of the State. On the 3d day of February, 1851, one of my predecessors (Governor Quitman), from motives highly honorable to himself, and as he conceived from a proper regard to what was due to the honor and dignity of a sovereign State, resigned the office of Chief Magistrate.

The duties of that station devolved upon the Hon. John L. Guion, by virtue of his office as President of the Senate. But at the general election on the 3d and 4th days of November last, his senatorial term expired, and with it, as a consequence, the executive office with which he had been invested; and from that time until the Senate was convened, by virtue of the proclamation of the Secretary of State, and a President elected by that body, there was no one authorized to exercise the functions of Chief Magistrate. I am not aware of any serious detriment to the public service having occurred in this particular instance, more than the delay in issuing commissions, and approving the bonds of the various officers elected by the people; but when it is remembered that upon the Executive devolves the duty of taking care that the laws be faithfully executed, that he is invested in certain cases with power to grant reprieves and pardons, to remit fines and stay the collection of forfeitures, that he is the keeper of the great seal of the State, with power to issue commissions, and fill vacancies, the necessity of so providing by an amendment to the constitution, that the office shall never become vacant, will readily occur to any one. I would therefore suggest the propriety of passing a law, recommending to the people at the next general election, a change in the constitution, providing that the President of the Senate or the Speaker of the House of Representatives, when they should be invested with the executive office, according to the constitution, should hold and exercise the duties of the same, until the Governor, elected by the people, should be regularly installed; or, if it should be considered more advisable, to provide for the election of a Lieutenant Governor, to exercise the duties of President of the Senate, and to act as Governor of the State, when by death, removal or resignation, that office should become vacant. In connection with this subject, I herewith transmit to the Legislature, a report from the Secretary of State upon this subject.

I herewith submit to the Legislature a report of the Auditor of Public Accounts, giving full and highly satisfactory statements of the condition of the finances of the State. From this Report it will be seen, that the sums collected and paid into the Treasury during the fiscal year 1850, amounted to the sum of \$424,033 95; and the sums collected and paid in the year 1851, amounted to the sum of \$221,200 27; and that there has been disbursed during these periods, in obedience to law, the sum of \$519,570 63; leaving in the Treasury on the 1st day of December, 1851, a balance amounting to the sum of \$555,040 00; subject to such appropriations as may be ordered by Legislative enactment. For details, I respectfully refer you to the report of the Auditor of Public Accounts.

Owing to severe family affliction, the late Treasurer has not finished his Bi-annual report. When received by this Department, which is expected in a few days, it will be communicated to the Legislature.

I have no alterations to suggest in relation to the laws heretofore passed in relation to the collection of the public revenue. The officers charged with the performance of these duties, so far as has been made known to the executive department, have performed them with as much skill and efficiency, as at any former period; and the condition of the public treasury gives the most gratifying assurance of the ability and integrity with which the financial department of the State Government has been managed.

By an act of the Legislature, approved March 9th, 1850, entitled, "an act to promote common schools in the several counties in this State," the sum of \$200,000 was appropriated to be distributed amongst the different counties in the State, for the purposes and upon the conditions, prescribed in the act.

By the 2nd section of the act, it was made the duty of the assessors of taxes in the several counties, to make an accurate enumeration of all the free white children in their respective counties, who were over six, and under twenty years of age; that said enumeration should be transmitted to the Auditor of Public Accounts, who should thereupon apportion the sum amongst the different counties, according to the number of children entitled to schooling under the provisions of said act. In consequence of the enumeration not having been furnished according to the provisions of the second section of the act, the Auditor of Public Accounts has not been enabled to apportion the sum appropriated by the Legislature as was intended; and said sum of money yet remains in the Treasury, subject to be paid out whenever the enumeration required by the law, shall have been made; or subject to such changes and modifications as the Legislature may think proper to make. By the 5th section of that act, it was provided that the fund, when distributed to the several counties, should be loaned out under the supervision of the Boards of Police, or the School Commissioners of said counties.

Experience has proven that public funds, when loaned out in small sums, under the direction of public officers, have either been lost or so endangered, that the delays and expenses incident to their collection have materially depreciated the fund. In spite of all the guards thrown around it by public enactment, a degree of favoritism will exist, prompting the agents to accommodate friends and those suffering most for the want of money, improper indulgences will be given or insufficient securities taken, and thus a fund appropriated under the influence of an expansive charity, highly creditable to the people's representatives, and intended for the enlightenment of the rising generation, may in a few years be squandered, and utterly fail in conferring upon the people the blessings, for which it was intended. We need not go beyond the limits of our own State for lessons of experience upon this subject, and they are abundant to prove that sums of money, when entrusted even to those who have a direct interest in their preservation, for the purpose of being loaned out, are in great danger of being lost, either by negligence or an undue confidence in others; and in order to avoid any risk of this character, I would recommend to the Legislature, to amend the act, as to make it the duty of the State Treasurer, with the approval of the Governor, to invest the whole fund in Government stocks, and that the interest arising thereupon, be annually divided among the several counties, pursuant to the spirit of said law.

The State University is an Institution properly cherished by the people, as affording the means of a finished education within our own borders; and I am happy to inform you that it is in a prosperous condition. Our people are beginning to awake to the great importance of educating their sons, amidst the institutions peculiar to the Southern States; and whilst they are unwilling to expose them to the contaminating influences and gratuitous insults to which they would be liable as citizens of a slaveholding State, while seeking the means of an education abroad, they have learned the true economy of expending their money within the State, and of encouraging institutions reared by themselves. The report of the Trustees of the University, will be laid before you in due season, and I sincerely hope, if it shall be found that further legislative enactment is necessary to advance the prosperity or extend the beneficial influence of the institution, that it will meet with prompt and efficient action on your part.

The report of the Commissioners of the Lunatic Asylum, will exhibit the progress of that work since the last appropriation—its present condition, and the amount of appropriation necessary to complete it, and render it fit for the purposes for which it was intended. It could not reasonably have been expected that a Hospital for the insane, designed as a monument of the charity and enlightened philanthropy of the State, could have been finished for the sums already expended upon it. A considerable amount will yet be required, to finish and put it, in a condition for the reception of those children of misfortune, for whose benefit it was designed, and the question is now to be settled whether it is better to let it remain in its present condition, and risk the loss of the money already expended upon it, or to make an appropriation necessary to complete and put it in operation?

It will be proper to mention that when the appropriation was made, it was intended that the State should furnish the brick for the building; but the condition of the affairs in the Penitentiary was such, that it was found to be impossible to appropriate the labor of the convicts to that purpose, and the Commissioners of the Asylum were forced to expend a large amount of the appropriation for the purchase of brick.

In intimate connection with this subject, I refer with great pleasure to the institution established by the Legislature, for the support and education of the Blind. The report of the Commissioners will be presented, showing that the institution is under good management, and is conferring great benefits upon an unfortunate class of individuals, who are entitled to our warmest sympathies. Such institutions stand as noble monuments of legislative munificence, and entitle their founders, as well as those who aid in carrying them into successful operation, to the lasting gratitude of the country. Before taking leave of this subject, I would respectfully recommend it to the fostering care of the Legislature.

One other institution of a kindred character is still wanting to complete the list of noble charities so characteristic of Southern generosity. I refer to an asylum for the deaf and dumb. The poor mute who is permitted to gaze upon the beauties of nature, but whose ears are forever closed to the sweet melody which Providence has ordained, to gladden the human heart, and whose tongue has never learned to hold social converse with his fellow-creatures, or even to unite in praises to the Most High—is a subject to claim our anxious solicitude, and prompt us to some action to ameliorate his condition; because, he can only be taught to appreciate the bounties of Providence, and the scheme of Redemption, by teaching him to read. Let us not withhold from him this exalted privilege, so fraught with happiness to all who enjoy its benefits; and while he can only converse with his fellow-creatures and enjoy that social intercourse so necessary to the happiness of all, by learning to write—let us do something towards unstopping the ears of the deaf, and make the dumb to speak through the medium of the pen.

I would, therefore, recommend that a small appropriation be made, similar to the one made for the benefit of the Blind, in order to employ a teacher or teachers and found a school, for the benefit of this class of our people, which may be changed or enlarged as circumstances may hereafter require. And with this additional institution the people of Mississippi may justly feel, that they have done everything which could be done, by Legislative enactment, to educate the poor, and ameliorate the condition of the suffering and afflicted.

In view of the intimate connection between this and the institution for the Blind, I respectfully suggest that the two might be blended, under one general supervision, thereby lessening the expense to the State, without detriment to either.

At the session of the Legislature of 1846, much alarm prevailed on the subject of the small pox, and by the act of 2d March, 1846, a vaccine depot and agency was established at Jackson, with an annual salary of \$400 to be paid to the agent. The causes for this alarm have long since passed away, and the report of the agent, which is herewith transmitted, will show that the State is expending a sum of money wholly disproportionate to the necessities of the case, the vaccine matter being accessible to all at a trifling expense. Therefore, I submit to the Legislature, the propriety of abolishing the office of Vaccine Agent, and saving the expense in future.

In many of the Reports herewith transmitted there is nothing which requires special comment. In reference to the Penitentiary, I would suggest the propriety of adding machinery equal to the capacity of the building and engine, for the purpose of manufacturing cotton and woolen goods. This will necessarily lessen the expenses arising from the employment of superintendents and guards, the inmates will be confined within the walls of the

prison, and the employment of the convicts will not only be more profitable to the State, but, from the nature of the employment, they will cease to compete with the honest and hard-working mechanic, who diligently labors for the support of a family, and who is everywhere estimated as being amongst the most useful members of society. The highly intelligent gentleman, who for four years past, has had the superintendence of the State prison, has labored unceasingly, not only to employ the convict labor in a way to promote the best interest of the State, but to provide, by all possible means, for the health and security of the prisoners, and for as much of personal comfort as was compatible with their situation. The true object of prison discipline is the reformation of the convict, and to treat him with humanity; to give him such moral and religious instruction as his situation affords, and to make him feel that, although degraded by a conviction, he is still a man, with hopes that reach beyond the term of his imprisonment, and is believed to be a policy not only dictated by humanity, but one which springs from a due regard to the best interests of society.

By an act of the Legislature, passed on the 19th February, 1850, the Governor was authorized and required to purchase a block of stone, of apt and suitable dimensions, for the Washington National Monument, to be suitably inscribed, and presented in the name of the State to the National Monument Society.

This duty has been promptly and cheerfully performed by my predecessors. The stone has been prepared and forwarded in the name of the State to the President of the Society, with the following engraved upon it, in deep Roman letters:—"The State of Mississippi to the Father of his Country, A. D. 1761," and also the Coat of Arms and Great Seal of the State. Thus has the State of Mississippi, beside her sister States of the Confederacy, contributed to rear a monument to the memory of George Washington.

In pursuance of the resolution passed 5th day of March, 1850, my predecessor, Governor Quitman, appointed Peter G. Washington, Esq., an agent, on behalf of the State, to adjust with the proper department any amount of the 2 and 3 per cent. funds that might be found to be due to this State. Said agent, has, as yet, furnished no report of his action in the premises. Whenever the same shall be received, it will be promptly communicated to the Legislature.

From the Report of the State Commissioner, accompanying this communication, you will learn the condition of the Sinking Fund, and such other matters as have been placed under his charge, by virtue of the laws heretofore passed on this subject.

By the act of 4th of March, 1846, it was made the duty of the Secretary of State to have prepared and furnished to the several Clerks of Probate, of this State, "a uniform standard of weights and measures," so soon as practicable, according to the provisions of an act of Congress, establishing a uniform standard of weights and measures for the United States. This duty has not been performed, as will appear by the report of the Secretary upon that subject, herewith transmitted, in consequence of no appropriation having been made to enable him to do so. I, therefore, recommend to the Legislature the propriety of making an appropriation in order to carry into effect the act referred to.

The Report of the same officer upon the subject of the Chickasaw school lands exhibits the number of acres confirmed to the State in line of the sixteenth sections, the number of acres disposed of, and the sums of money realized therefor. I am not apprised that any further legislation is necessary upon this subject, unless it be to reduce the minimum price of the land, so as to afford a reasonable expectation that it will be disposed of within a few years, and the proceeds be made available for the purposes intended.

I deem it proper to call your attention to an act passed 9th of March, 1850, authorizing the Judges of the High Court of Errors and Appeals to meet annually, on the 3d Monday in June, in the town of Oxford, to receive a written, and to hear oral argument of causes, and fixing their compensation for such service at \$500 per annum. I have been informed that, in consequence of the non-attendance of the members of the Bar, no such court has been held as the one contemplated by the act; and, as it has wholly failed to accomplish the purposes for which it was intended, I would recommend its repeal.

In connection with this subject, it is proper to state, that on the 1st day of October last, the Hon. William L. Sharkey, who has so long and so ably discharged the duties of Chief Justice of the State, resigned, and fearing that there might be a failure in the December Term of the Court, in consequence of the non-attendance of one of the Judges, I appointed Colin S. Tarpley, Esq., as one of the Judges of that Court, to act until the successor of Judge Sharkey should be elected and qualified. The appointment was accepted by Col. Tarpley, at my solicitation, and upon the express understanding that he was to be relieved from the duties of the office, as early a day as practicable. After remaining upon the Bench until the Court adjourned to the first Monday in January, he resigned, upon the ground that the object of the appointment had been accomplished by the holding of the Court, and he was unwilling to remain in office and receive the salary without being able to render any equivalent therefor in the way of public service.

The writ of election has been issued to fill the vacancy, and the election ordered to take place on the 19th day of the present month.

On the 23d day of September last, the Hon. Jefferson Davis resigned his seat, as one of the Senators in Congress from this State, and the Hon. John J. McRae has been appointed to serve in his place, until the meeting of the Legislature, and the election of some one to fill the residue of the term to which Col. Davis was elected.

Mr. McRae, immediately after his appointment, repaired to Washington, where he is now engaged in the performance of his duties, as one of the Senators from this State.

The Report of the Commissioners of the Southern Railroad has not yet been received; when it shall come to hand, it will be promptly laid before you. That it is a work of great importance, not only to the people residing in the eastern portion of the State, but, (when taken in connection with other improvements of a similar character,) to the country at large, will be readily perceived.

At the same time, it must be admitted that large sums have already been expended, while, to all appearances, but little has been done towards the completion of the work; and it may become a matter of serious inquiry how far the State is benefitted, in an effort to construct a great public work, through an agency that has no capital at stake, and is to derive no personal benefit from the enterprise.—Terms of a liberal character have been offered by the Legislature to any private company who would undertake to complete the road. And from the fact that no offer has been made upon the terms proposed, I would suggest the propriety of holding out still greater inducements, in order to have the road completed by individual enterprise.

The subject of Internal Improvements, generally, is at this time claiming a large share of public attention, not only in this, but in most of the States of the Union.

The Constitutional power of the General Government to make improvements within the States is a subject that has long been agitated in the Halls of Congress, and constitutes one of the principal features upon which the two great parties of the country are divided at the present time. The sentiment of a large portion of the American people being opposed to the exercise of such power by Congress, throws upon the State Governments the necessity of aiding their citizens, as far as is convenient and practicable to do so, in constructing such works of internal improvement as may have a tendency to develop the agricultural resources, and promote the commerce of the country. We, very properly, deny to the General Government the right of exercising any powers not clearly delegated in the Constitution, and perhaps no power has ever been claimed by Congress so liable to abuse as the one under consideration, whereby large sums of money may be drawn from the pockets of the people, to be squandered upon schemes calculated to corrupt the States and control the patronage of the Government, or the creation of a great national debt, thereby imposing upon the country the necessity of high protective tariffs, for the purpose of liquidating it, and building up the manufacturing, at the expense of the agricultural and commercial interests of the country.

But whilst our safety as a sovereign State consists in a firm opposition to the exercise of any such powers upon the part of the Federal Government, we should at the same time remember that the duty of providing for the wants of the country by a liberal, but judicious system of internal improvements, is imperative upon the State government.

It has been but a few years since the first railroad was constructed in this country, and then from the want of experience, and the high price of materials, it was considered of doubtful expediency. But time and repeated experiments have tested their great utility; until now, there are upwards of ten thousand miles of railroad, built at a cost of more than 300,000,000 of dollars, in successful operation in the various States of the Union, and perhaps half as many more miles projected, and in the course of construction. They traverse regions of country heretofore considered as worthless, in consequence of their remoteness from market, developing their agricultural and mineral resources, and giving to them a value equal to the most favored regions, by bringing a market for their produce almost to the door of the producer, and by affording the facilities for transportation with speed, safety and economy, they invite emigration to the country, adding immensely to the value of real estate; causing flourishing towns and villages to spring up as by magic in the wilderness, promoting the convenience and increasing the commerce and adding to the wealth of the people, at the same time enriching the coffers of the State. Nor have railroads had a less decided or beneficial tendency in building up manufacturing by affording the means of supplying the raw material at a diminished cost, and of distributing the same, when manufactured, to the consumers in every part of the State. I need scarcely dwell upon the great importance of having our staple products manufactured in our own borders, thereby saving to the people of the State, the vast amount now paid by them to support the labor of other countries, as well as the cost of transportation, insurance, commissions, exchanges and profits, all of which are paid by the consumer. There is no good reason why the people of Mississippi should rely upon other States to furnish them with the cotton and woolen goods which they consume, when the materials out of which they are manufactured, are so abundant at home, or look to other countries for supplies of shoes, hats, caps, paper, saddlery, furniture, carriages, &c., &c., when by opening railroad communications with New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah and Charleston, the materials as well as the machinery used in their manufacture, may be so easily conveyed into the State, and the profits of the labor, as well as the incidental expenses be saved to the country. Surely there has been no previous time in our history, when the Southern States should use all the means at their command, or struggle so earnestly to make themselves independent of those who seek to destroy our institutions, whilst they are growing rich upon the proceeds of our labor, and there is no other means by which that can be accomplished more readily than entering upon a well digested scheme of internal improvements, granting to our planting and commercial interests, and the facilities to be derived from the means of intercommunication with our sister States of the South, and a ready and cheap access to those points where our great staple finds the best market, by building manufacturing in our own State, and by opening a direct trade between the southern ports and the markets of Europe. Other Southern States have progressed rapidly in their march to independence by expending large sums in the construction of rail-roads, and by giving proper encouragement to induce their citizens to establish manufacturing, and already the enhanced value of their property, and the additions made thereby to the wealth, happiness and contentment of their citizens, have fully demonstrated the wisdom of their policy; and Mississippi, with a population as intelligent, and blessed with as many resources as the population of any other State, should not be found lagging behind the spirit of the age, or permit her sister States to out-strip her in a contest for prosperity and independence.—The experience in other States has proven that great undertakings of this character cannot be successfully conducted by individual enterprise alone, and it requires the means which the State only can command, united to those of private companies, to put them into speedy and successful operation, and wherever this has been done, upon well considered and practicable routes, in addition to the advantages derived from them by the country, the stockholders, both as a State and as individuals have realized handsome profits from the investment; lands through which such roads pass, increase in value sufficient to pay the costs of the road whilst their enhanced value, together with the increased consumption of every article of luxury furnished by the road, materially tend to swell the resources of the State.

But whilst I would respectfully urge upon the Legislature by every consideration connected with our interests as a people, to give the most liberal encouragement to stock or railroad enterprises, by subscribing for stock, or otherwise, sound policy would dictate the propriety of not making any engagements beyond the means under our control, nor of attempting to supply the deficiency by resorting to a general system of taxation. There are at present two great enterprises projected within our State, which appeal more powerfully for assistance from the State than any others, because they are more intimately connected with the general prosperity of the country. I refer to the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, which passes through ten or more counties of the State, and as many more contiguous thereto and almost equally interested in its construction, containing a White population of

over 100,000; and the New Orleans and Jackson Road, which is at present contemplated to extend to Nashville, in the State of Tennessee. Should this latter road be extended, it will pass through the entire State, from South to North, penetrating the heart of the most fertile region of the State, that has heretofore found no outlet for its marketable products, except at an immense cost, and placing the same in almost daily communication with New Orleans. These two great roads are designed as trunk roads, connecting the northern lakes with Mobile and New Orleans, and will, doubtless, at some future day, have many branches connecting them with the various portions of the country, and thereby contributing essentially to the convenience of towns and neighborhoods. Would it not be sound policy to continue our assistance to those great roads until they shall be completed, and then contribute the means left at our disposal, to aid in the construction of other roads less important in their effects upon the interests of the country? I would suggest the propriety of the State becoming a stockholder in each of these roads to the extent of its ability. The dividends arising from the stock may be used in lessening the taxes imposed upon her citizens, and should she at any time think proper to withdraw the capital to aid in the construction of other enterprises of a similar character, the stock may be placed in market, and probably disposed of at a premium.

The means at the disposal of the State, beyond the amount of surplus money in the treasury, consists of the five hundred thousand acres of land donated to the State for the purposes of internal improvement, less 10,778.56-140 acres which have been sold in pursuance of the act of 23d February, 1848, as appears by the report of the Secretary of State, accompanying this communication. It was intended on the part of the general government, in making this donation to the State, to enable her to carry on a system of internal improvements to develop our resources, and increase the prosperity of her citizens.

The State having accepted the donation according to the terms thereof, it is a matter of serious doubt with many intelligent persons, whether the bonds of the State, sold on account of the Planters' Bank, should be received in payment for these lands, without the consent of the donor.—Be that, however, as it may, the experience of four years' duration has proven that the bonds are not to be discharged upon the terms prescribed by the Legislature, as there has only been paid of these bonds and coupons, from the sale of the lands, the sum of \$53,949 61, for which amount the State stands indebted to the Internal Improvement Fund, which is more than counter-balanced by appropriations for locating these lands, internal improvement purposes, taxes, &c.

If these bonds constitute a valid debt against the State, of which I have no doubt, (and have as yet heard no valid argument to prove the contrary,) every principle of honor, integrity and fair dealing, which, if possible, is more obligatory upon communities than upon individuals, imperatively demand that they should be paid, and the means of payment should be promptly provided. It is equally obligatory upon the State to apply the trust funds held by her to the purposes for which they were intended. If it should be the intention of the Legislature to apply these funds to aid in the construction of the two great schemes of improvement herein referred to, or any others, it will become necessary to have the lands offered for sale at greatly reduced prices, such as will induce purchasers to come forward and take them, repealing that portion of the existing law authorizing the reception of the State bonds in payment. It is believed that these lands or a large portion of them at least could be readily disposed of at reasonable prices, and it would be far better for the State, to sell them at low prices, and to derive the benefits accruing from their settlement and cultivation, as well as the taxes which would have to be paid upon them, than to hold them at prices which may not be obtained for many years to come. If these lands were disposed of in the way here indicated, the State might realize nearly or quite a million of dollars from this source, which would be of incalculable advantage to the country, if judiciously applied to the construction of rail-roads. Another source of revenue to the State consists in the large amount of swamp lands granted by the general government, by an act of Congress, approved the 26th of September, 1850, for the purpose of constructing necessary levees and drains to reclaim the swamp and overflowed lands lying in this State, and included in the above grant. It is believed that when the levees shall have been completed, that this land will become exceedingly valuable, and that it would require but a small portion of the lands for that purpose. The great importance attached to this grant, by Gov. Quitman, induced him, on the 3d of February, 1851, in the absence of any authority by law, to make regular appointments, to say to John Rayburn, Esq., of Panola Co., that if he would look solely to the Legislature for the confirmation of his acts in the premises and for compensation for his services, he could proceed to locate the lands in question. On the 17th of February, Gov. Guion appointed Mr. P. Bryan upon similar terms and conditions. These gentlemen have been engaged in locating since that time, and have transmitted to this department an elaborate report of their progress. I would therefore recommend that suitable compensation be allowed them for their services.

The Register of the Land Office at this place, in pursuance to instructions from the proper department at Washington, has submitted a report containing a list of the overflowed lands in the Jackson Land District, which I herewith transmit. These lands have not yet been examined and located fully by the agents appointed for that purpose; but, from their location, and the known fertility of the soil, it may be fairly estimated that if judiciously disposed of, they will yield to the State a large amount of available means for internal improvements, after defraying the expenses of making the levees and bringing them into market. The benefits calculated to accrue to the State from a judicious management of this grant will, I am sure induce you to deliberately examine the subject and adopt whatever course your wisdom may dictate that will be most likely to carry out the objects of the grant. The leveeing, or assisting to do so, of the Mississippi, is a matter that will demand your early attention. That work effectually done, and the choicest body of land perhaps in the world for the production of our great staple, would be reclaimed and open to our people, thereby swelling our exports, increasing our revenue, and adding immensely to the wealth and resources of the State, as well as that of individuals.

Another matter worthy of serious consideration, is the proper mode of disposing of the lands forfeited to the State for the non-payment of taxes. In the 17th section of the act of the 9th of March, 1850, the Legislature made provision for the disposition of these lands by authorizing any person to redeem them after a given period; but such authority was coupled with conditions believed to be calculated to defeat the very object of the act; the purchaser could take neither more nor less

than a half section, when in many instances not so much was owned by the State in one body, when, in other cases, to have disposed of a half section, might have rendered the residue of the tract valueless. I would recommend the passage of a law in lieu thereof, authorizing these lands to be disposed of at very moderate prices to be fixed by law, to any person whatever, who might be inclined to purchase them, and in the same quantities in which they are acquired by the State. It is believed that this course would enable the State to dispose of lands forfeited for non-payment of taxes, on favorable terms, subject the lands again to taxation, and thereby materially increase her revenue, which might also be applied to purposes of internal improvement.

The amount of money that can be realized from the 800,000 acres of donated land, the swamp lands, and the lands forfeited to the State for the non-payment of taxes, if disposed of in the manner above indicated, or in any other practicable manner, would be sufficient to carry on an extensive system of internal improvement for many years to come. But should they prove insufficient to answer the wants of the State, a resort might be had to another source for carrying on these improvements, which, from the experience of other countries, could hardly be considered at this day, by any liberal-minded person, as one of doubtful propriety. I allude to the taxation of real estate in the vicinity of these roads, for the purpose of aiding in their construction. That rail-roads have a certain tendency to increase the value of lands in the regions of country through which they pass, cannot admit of a doubt; and there is scarcely a road of any considerable extent, in any portion of the United States, where the lands lying contiguous to the road have not been increased in value sufficient to pay for its construction; and is there anything unjust in equalizing the burdens of those who are to be benefited by the improvement?—This plan of assessing taxes upon real estate to be benefited by improvements, for the purpose of aiding in their construction, has been decided by the courts of several of the States, as I am informed, to be constitutional—and it is a mode of carrying out great works of improvement which has been freely resorted to by many of the States.

Should the Legislature in its wisdom, conceive it proper to resort to this mode of taxation, I would suggest the propriety of discriminating between those lands lying within, say ten miles of the road, and those lying more than ten, but within twenty miles of it; add beyond this limit I would not conceive it proper to go, as lands beyond that distance derive a benefit too uncertain to subject them to the burden of taxation for the purposes referred to.

The taxes imposed as suggested, if any should inure to the benefit of the tax-payer, by requiring the tax-collector to give to the tax-payer a receipt or certificate for the amount of rail-road tax paid by him, which receipt or certificate should entitle the individual paying the tax, or the assignee, to stock in the Company, to the amount of the tax paid to aid in the construction of their road.

In this way, the burden of taxation would fall only upon those who are not only benefited by the enhanced value of their lands, but who, as stock-holders, may also realize dividends of interest upon the investment.

The lands donated by the government to aid in the construction of the Mobile and Ohio railroad, are held by the State for that purpose, and some legislative action will be necessary to enable the company to use them in the construction and completion of their road.

It is proper for me to state in this connection, that on the 12th day of February last, my predecessor, Gov. Guion, appointed Charles F. Mayerhoff, Esq., of Clarke county, an agent on the part of this State, to locate the lands thus granted.

I would invite the attention of the Legislature to this subject at an early period of the session.

The Commissioners of the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad have not yet made any report as to the manner in which they have applied the two thousand dollars given them by the Legislature, to aid in surveying the route of said road. I have been informed, however, by the President of the Board of Commissioners, that the surveys have been completed from New Orleans to Jackson, and that the reports and estimates of the engineers are of the most favorable character.

I herewith submit to the Legislature, for their consideration, a letter from A. Hutchinson and G. R. Fall, surviving partners of C. M. Price, proposing to sell to the State one thousand copies of Hutchinson's Code of Mississippi, at five dollars per copy.

At your last regular session, an act was passed appropriating two thousand dollars for the purpose of repairing the State capital, and placing the same at the disposal of the Governor to be by him expended. This duty has been efficiently complied with by my predecessors.

In obedience to an act passed at your last session, and approved the 9th of March, 1850, the sum of two thousand dollars was placed at the disposal of the Governor, for the purpose of erecting on some suitable part of the capital square, a brick building for an arsenal or place of deposit for the public arms. I am happy to be able to inform the Legislature that this duty was promptly performed by my predecessor, Gov. Quitman, and that the arms of the State are now securely deposited in an armory; which, while it was imperiously demanded for their preservation and safe keeping, also adds to the beauty of the public grounds.

I herewith transmit certain resolutions and other communications covering a variety of subjects, which I submit to your respectful consideration.

I herewith transmit to the Legislature the report of the Secretary of State in relation to certain amendments proposed to the Constitution at your last regular session, and which were voted upon by the people at the last general election, which will, I hope, fully explain itself.

By reference to the census return, herewith transmitted, it will be seen that this State is entitled to an additional representative in Congress.—I would respectfully call your attention to this subject, that you may take whatever steps you may think proper and necessary to secure a full representation from this State, so soon as the next apportionment shall take effect.

I herewith transmit a report from the Adjutant General. From this report, it will be seen that the Militia system is in a state of great derangement and disorganization, working no benefit to the people or the State, while it entails upon the former considerable tax. I feel constrained, therefore, to recommend to the Legislature, the passage of such laws on this subject, as will materially improve the present system, or to abolish it entirely.

Since the last regular session of the Legislature, great excitement has prevailed throughout the country, growing out of the passage of a series of measures generally called the plan of adjustment, by the Congress of the United States, and the efforts made on the part of some of the citizens of the Northern States to resist its execution, and to defeat the only feature of the series intended for the benefit of the Southern States.

Deeply impressed with a sense of the great im-

portance of the subject, and desiring to see the

country, growing out of the passage of a series of measures generally called the plan of adjustment, by the Congress of the United States, and the efforts made on the part of some of the citizens of the Northern States to resist its execution, and to defeat the only feature of the series intended for the benefit of the Southern States.

Deeply impressed with a sense of the great im-

portance of the subject, and desiring to see the

country, growing out of the passage of a series of measures generally called the plan of adjustment, by the Congress of the United States, and the efforts made on the part of some of the citizens of the Northern States to resist its execution, and to defeat the only feature of the series intended for the benefit of the Southern States.

Deeply impressed with a sense of the great im-

portance of the subject, and desiring to see the

country, growing out of the passage of a series of measures generally called the plan of adjustment, by the Congress of the United States, and the efforts made on the part of some of the citizens of the Northern States to resist its execution, and to defeat the only feature of the series intended for the benefit of the Southern States.

Deeply impressed with a sense of the great im-

portance of the subject, and desiring to see the

country, growing out of the passage of a series of measures generally called the plan of adjustment, by the Congress of the United States, and the efforts made on the part of some of the citizens of the Northern States to resist its execution, and to defeat the only feature of the series intended for the benefit of the Southern States.

Deeply impressed with a sense of the great im-

portance of the subject, and desiring to see the

country, growing out of the passage of a series of measures generally called the plan of adjustment, by the Congress of the United States, and the efforts made on the part of some of the citizens of the Northern States to resist its execution, and to defeat the only feature of the series intended for the benefit of the Southern States.

Deeply impressed with a sense of the great im-

portance of the subject, and desiring to see the

country, growing out of the passage of a series of measures generally called the plan of adjustment, by the Congress of the United States, and the efforts made on the part of some of the citizens of the Northern States to resist its execution, and to defeat the only feature of the series intended for the benefit of the Southern States.

Deeply